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8. WHITE STORKS *CICONIA CICONIA* ON MIGRATION

Migrating white storks *Ciconia ciconia* stop over to rest near Udayampatti village, about 5 km from Kalainzar Karunanidhi (KK) Nagar, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. I have been seeing them here for the last 11 years. The area is roughly bounded by road from KK Nagar to Pudukkottai on the east, by the curving irrigation channel in the north and west. It extends to the south over and beyond the fallow and agricultural

lands. A railway line runs parallel to the irrigation channel for some distance. The railway crossing, a roadside temple and tile factory chimneys far beyond in the southeast are unmistakable landmarks. On the ground, the area appears as a loose rectangle, widening in the south, with a cart road running west to Vadugapatty. It is about 9 sq. km of mildly undulating, scrub jungle (about 30%) with grass

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

APPENDIX

S.No.	Year	Date of arrival	Date of Departure	Numbers	Remarks
1.	1988	19.10.88	20.10.88	120+	
2.	1988	24.11.88	26.11.88	280+	Heavy Storms Preceded Rain
3.	1989	26.10.89	27.10.89	60+	
4.	1989	28.11.89	29.11.89	40+	
5.	1990	21.10.90	24.10.90	150+	
6.	1991	28.10.91	30.10.91	40+	
7.	1992	4.12.92	7.12.92	200+	Heavy Storm
8.	1993	21.10.93	23.10.93	50+	Continuous Rains
9.	1993	25.11.93	27.11.93	300+	Heavy Storm preceded Rains
10.	1993	30.11.93	3.12.93	150+	
11.	1994	26.10.94	28.10.94	90+	
12.	1995		did not visit		
13.	1996		did not visit		
14.	1997	16.10.97	28.10.97	250+	Early Rains Heavy Storm Preceded Rains
15.	1998	2.11.98	4.11.98	300+	Heavy Storms Preceded Rains
16.	1998	20.11.98	21.11.98	90+	

and sparse trees *Azadirachta indica*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Acacia leucophloea* and *A. nilotica*.

White storks are seen here from the beginning of the northeast monsoon. They arrive in the afternoon or evening, and depart in the night or early morning. Reaching in a downpour, often along with a storm, they depart when the rain stops and the sky clears. They generally land in small, unnoticeable groups of ten to twenty,

the total sometimes reaching 300, but leave together as a group. They keep moving while foraging, with about 8 m in between individuals. The slush and waterlogging, grazing sheep, cattle or buffaloes do not bother them.

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9. DISTRIBUTION AND NESTING SITES OF THE BLACKNECKED STORK *EPHIPPIORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS*

The blacknecked stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* is threatened due to habitat loss and it is feared to have become very rare. In recent literature, concerned individuals have attempted to highlight the decline of this species and it is suggested that this species be placed in Category I of CITES (Rahmani 1989, Elliott 1992). The species is largely well-dispersed and rarely seen in groups. The ecology of the blacknecked stork is not clearly understood and information on its distribution and nesting is sparse and scattered. During a survey to assess the status of the sarus crane in India (May 1998 to March 1999), we had an excellent opportunity to record sites where the blacknecked stork feed and breed. This

information is presented in Table 1.

Gujarat: Though known to be inhabiting inland wetlands, four birds were seen by the sea in Gujarat (Table 1). It was not clear if they had nested in the immediate vicinity or not. All the birds were resting on a dry sandy bank in the afternoon.

Haryana: Storks have not been previously reported from Bhindawas in Haryana. The locals have not seen the species breeding in the area, even though the lake has a large heronry, and several large trees in and around the lake. Sultanpur in Jajjar district of Haryana has been facing drought for the past three years continuously and water birds were not seen.